

Remarks

Claims 1-12, 14-23 and 25-29 remain in the application. Claims 1, 15, 18, 26 and 29 are hereby amended. Claims 13 and 24 are hereby canceled without prejudice. No new matter is being added.

Claim Rejections -- 35 U.S.C. 103

Bussiere in view of Amara further in view of Zhang

Previously-presented claims 1, 5-7, 10-14, 17-19, 21-25 and 28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Bussiere in view of Amara et al (Amara) further in view of Zhang et al (Zhang). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in relation to the claims as they now stand.

Independent claim 1 is hereby amended to incorporate the limitation of original claim 13 (and claim 13 is hereby canceled without prejudice). Claim 1 now recites as follows.

1. A method for remote mirroring of network traffic between a first network layer 2 domain and a second network layer 2 domain, the method comprising:
 - receiving by an entry device a data packet to be remotely mirrored from the first network layer 2 domain, wherein the entry device is pre-configured with a destination Internet Protocol (IP) address to which to mirror the data packet, and the destination IP address is associated with a remote exit device in the second network layer 2 domain;
 - generating and adding an IP header to IP encapsulate the data packet, wherein the IP header includes the destination IP address;
 - forwarding the IP-encapsulated packet to an exit device associated with the destination IP address; and
 - configuring the entry device in a best effort mirroring mode to reduce head-of-line blocking.**

(Emphasis added.)

As shown above, the limitation of “configuring the entry device in a **best effort mirroring mode to reduce head-of-line blocking**” (emphasis added) is incorporated into claim 1 from original claim 13.

Similarly, independent claim 18 is hereby amended to incorporate the limitation of original claim 24 (and claim 24 is hereby canceled without prejudice). Similar to claim 1, claim 18 now recites, among other limitations, “wherein the device includes a **best effort mirroring mode to reduce head-of-line blocking**.” (Emphasis added.) Also, independent claim 29 is hereby amended to incorporate the limitation “wherein the remote mirroring engine includes a **best effort mirroring mode to reduce head-of-line blocking**.” (Emphasis added.)

Applicants respectfully submit that the Office Action merely makes a **general allegation** that this limitation regarding “a best effort mirroring mode to reduce head-of-line blocking” is taught by Bussiere, Amara, and Zhang. However, the Office Action **does not identify** where or how the claimed feature is taught. Instead, the Office Action merely cites to **substantially all text** of Bussiere (col. 1, line 5 – col. 10, line 65), Amara (col. 1, line 7 – col. 18, line 38) and Zhang (col. 1, line 6, -- col. 16, line 33). *See Office Action, last three lines on page 11.*

Applicants have not found the claimed feature as being taught in these citations. Thus, for at least this reason, applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection in relation to amended claims 1, 18 and 29.

Claims 2-12, 14, 16 and 17 depend from claim 1, and claims 19-23, 25, 27 and 28 depend from claim 18. Hence, applicants also respectfully request favorable reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection in relation to these claims.

In the event that the Office maintains the rejection of independent claims 1, 18 and 29, as amended, applicants respectfully request that the Office identify on the record, and with specificity sufficient to support a *prima facie* case of obviousness, where in the cited references the claimed feature is alleged to be taught.

Bussiere in view of Amara further in view of Zhang further in view of Brown

Claims 15-16, 26-27 and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Bussiere in view of Amara further in view of Zhang and further in view of Brown. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in relation to claims 15 and 26.

Claim 15 recites the claim limitation of “**truncating** the data packet to reduce a size of the IP-encapsulated packet prior to forwarding thereof”. Similarly, claim 26 recites that “the device **truncates** the data packet to result in a size reduction of the IP-encapsulated packet prior to forwarding thereof.” (Emphasis added.) This submission amends claims 15 and 26 to be in independent form by incorporating the limitations of previously-presented claims 1 and 18, respectively.

In regards to this “truncation” feature, the Office Action cites to col. 7, lines 56-67 of Brown. However, there is no disclosure of truncation in this citation. “Truncation” refers to a **cutting off** of a portion of the data packet. The “compression” mentioned in Brown refers to an encoding of data in a form that uses fewer bits. Such a compression is technically highly distinct from a truncation.

Furthermore, applicants respectfully submit that any such truncation of data packets would be *contrary* to the objects and goals of the secure tunneling of Amara. This is because Amara intends to securely transmit a data packet stream, and truncation of the data packets would mean that the data packet stream transmitted would be *incomplete*.

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that claims 15 and 26 now overcome this rejection.

Conclusion

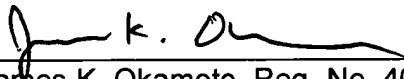
For the above-discussed reasons, applicant believes that the pending claims, as amended, now overcome the rejections of the latest office action. Favorable action is respectfully requested.

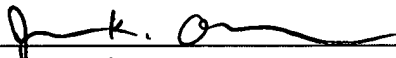
If for any reason an insufficient fee has been paid, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge the insufficiency to Deposit Account No. 08-2025 (Hewlett Packard).

Finally, the below-signed attorney has left a voicemail for the Examiner to discuss the present application. The Examiner is invited to call the attorney at the telephone number indicated below if there are any questions with this submission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dated: December 28, 2007


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